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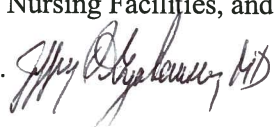
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March 23, 2018

TO: Licensed Acute Care Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Intermediate Care Facilities

FROM: Jeffrey D. Gunzenhauser, M.D., M.P.H. 
Interim Health Officer

SUBJECT: **EXTENSION TO APRIL 15, 2018 OF THE HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION OF HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL OR MASKING DURING THE INFLUENZA SEASON**

The Los Angeles County (LAC) Health Officer issued the attached "Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Healthcare Personnel or Masking of Health Care Workers during the Influenza Season" in October 2013. The Order mandates that healthcare personnel receive an annual influenza vaccination for the current influenza season or wear a mask for the duration of the season while in contact with patients or working in patient-care areas. The Order applies to every licensed acute care hospital, skilled nursing facility, and intermediate care facility within the County of Los Angeles public health jurisdiction.

The Order applies during the influenza season, which is defined as November 1 of one year to March 31 of the following year. The Order states that the duration of the face mask requirement for unvaccinated healthcare personnel may be extended if LAC Department of Public Health (DPH) surveillance data indicate that influenza activity is likely to remain elevated beyond March 31 (defined as $\geq 5\%$ of respiratory specimens tested at LAC sentinel surveillance laboratories are positive for influenza). Of the respiratory specimens tested at LAC sentinel laboratories during the week of March 11–17, 2018, 16% were positive for influenza. **Given the likelihood that influenza activity will remain elevated beyond March 31, 2018, the LAC Health Officer is extending the Order and the requirement for unvaccinated healthcare personnel to wear a mask until April 15, 2018.**

LAC DPH will continue to review influenza surveillance data every two weeks and inform the Health Officer on the need for additional extensions of the Order. Updates regarding additional extensions of the Order will be posted biweekly on the [LAC DPH Health Officer Order](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/influenza_providers.htm) website at http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/influenza_providers.htm until the Health Officer declares the end of the current influenza season.

We sincerely appreciate your continued efforts to implement the Order and protect personnel and patients. Please contact LAC DPH at (213) 240-7941 for any questions regarding the Health Officer Order.

Attachment